

Representative Craig Headland
House Finance and Taxation Committee

HB 1343, Version 23.0846.01000

Monday, January 23, 2023

11:00am, Room 327E

In Opposition

My name is Christina Tosseth and I am testifying against HB 1343.

My daughter Jaide Tosseth died unexpectedly on October 16, 2016 in a tragic accident while she was 14 years old. She just started as a freshman at Legacy High School. She loved playing violin in the orchestra, cheerleading, and had just completed earning the Silver Award in Girl Scouts. The Silver Award is the highest award for Girl Scouts to earn at her level.

My husband and I were fortunate enough to be able to set up a memorial scholarship in her name. There are requirements in the scholarship to be awarded to a female student that attends Legacy High School that share similar passions as Jaide in her honor. Jaide's life ended before she could fully experience High School and college.

Therefore, the requirements are not very stringent, because we wanted to give an opportunity for someone to experience college that may not have had the opportunity otherwise. They also allow a piece of our daughter to move forward in time and make a difference for others since she is no longer here to do it herself. The requirement of being a Legacy High School student is to show our appreciation to the Legacy High School community who were very supportive to our family and Jaide's friends during this most difficult time.

I am against this bill for 2 main reasons. First, the requirements are thoughtfully considered and have meaning for so many reasons. It is my belief that if people are not able to use donations to the scholarship fund as a charitable gift for tax credit, these scholarships will dissolve. Donations are hard to obtain already and without the tax credit, many people may not be willing to donate as much or not at all. We have lost so much already and would hate to see these opportunities be lost for others.

Secondly, the fiscal impact cannot be determined. Why take away something that directly benefits/impacts many students who may not have the opportunity to further their education when you do not have the facts to support the impact of removing the tax credit?

Again, I am against HB 1343 due to the lack of information on the financial impact it will have and the possible loss of these important scholarships that memorialize and honor the loved one we have lost.

Christina Tosseth

Jaide's Mom

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Jaide's Obituary – <https://www.eastgatefuneral.com/obituaries/3947386>

Jaide's Scholarship page - <https://bpsfoundation.com/project/jaide-tosseth-memorial-scholarship/>

One example of Legacy Community Support - <https://www.kxnet.com/news/neighbors-turn-house-lights-red-for-jaide-tosseth/>